

HECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Heckington Parish Council Cemetery Committee meeting held Thursday 26 February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Chambers, St Andrews Street, Heckington

1. Chair's Welcome (CC/25/50)

The Chair, Councillor Gower (hereafter referred to as the Chair) welcomed Council members and three members of the public to the meeting. She delivered the usual health and safety announcements.

2. Public Forum (CC/25/51)

No comments.

3. Councillors present (CC/25/52)

Councillor Gower, Chair
Councillor Cocks
Councillor Garlick
Councillor O'Connor

4. Apologies (CC/25/53)

None.

5. To receive any reports of member's interest, pecuniary or otherwise in relation to the agenda and any dispensations in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 (CC/25/54)

None.

6. Minutes (CC/25/55)

The Chair proposed that the Clerk's notes of the meeting dated 13 November 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Garlick, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.

7. General Matters (CC/25/56)

a) Project Forget Me Knot

- i) The Clerk and Caretaker provided an update regarding the progress of Project Forget Me Knot: The Yew Trees that were planted to replace laurel in the North West perimeter of the cemetery are doing well, the pleached Beech Trees are due for delivery on Friday 27 February 2026, the lavender has been ordered and will be ready for collection mid-March, War Grave signage has been installed at the entrance to the cemetery, Mr Hazelwood has carried out fence repairs on the South West perimeter, Nic Marshall has been asked to quote for repairs to the iron railings along the sheep field, essential tree works are being carried out by arborist, Terra Firma and the bulbs are starting to emerge. The Clerk stated that she is currently putting together a biodiversity policy to meet compliance with the Local Government Award Scheme (bronze) and hopes that the work being undertaken in the cemetery will align with the policy. The Committee expressed their thanks to Molans for the kind donation of £200 towards the project. The Caretaker added that the next few months will see the removal of woodchip, logs

and stumps, the levelling of graves and uneven ground, grass seed will be laid, and the grass will be cut and collected.

Action: Clerk to create a vision board.

- ii) Noticeboard
Members discussed the provision of a noticeboard and discussed size, design and purpose. **The Chair proposed the purchase of a noticeboard up to a total cost (exclusive of VAT) of £3,000.00. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.**
Action: Committee to carry out a site visit on Friday 27 February 2026 to agree siting. Clerk to explore War Graves plans. Clerk to obtain quotes for a noticeboard.
- iii) Grass Seed
Councillor Garlick proposed the purchase of two bags of Boston Seeds grass seed at a cost of £71.99 per 20kg bag. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Gower, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.
Action: Clerk to purchase.
- iv) Signage
The Chair proposed the purchase of eight signs 'Please Keep Off the Flower Bed' at a cost of £7.99 per sign. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.
Action: Clerk to purchase.
- v) Refurbishment of the cemetery gates
The Chair proposed the refurbishment of the cemetery gates up to a cost of £150.00. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Cocks, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.
Action: Caretaker to schedule the works.
- vi) Chapel and Workshop windows
Members discussed the preservation work required to the workshop including the stripping and repainting of the windows and damp proofing, repairs to brickwork and installation of a gravel margin around the perimeter of the building.
Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for the windows and renewed quotes for the building works.
- vii) Fundraising
Members discussed fundraising options.
Action: Clerk to explore easy fundraising.
- b) Digital Records of the Registers of Burials
The Clerk informed the meeting that Ancestry attended on 28 January 2026 to create digital copies of the Burial Ground Records).
- c) Training
The Clerk explained that having an in-house gravedigger would create additional income for the cemetery. **Councillor Garlick proposed that the Caretaker attend mini-digger training at a cost of £450.00 (plus VAT) and a grave digging course at a cost of £250 (plus VAT). The proposal was seconded by the Chair, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.**
Action: Clerk to book the course.
- d) Burial Ground Policy – Kerbs

The Chair proposed that a decision to allow kerbs is ratified and added to the burial ground policy. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.

Action: Clerk to amend the burial ground policy and add the updated version to the website.

e) Plant Hire

Councillor Gower proposed £115.00 in expenditure to go towards the cost of the hire of a digger to remove tree stumps from the cemetery that are occupying grave spaces. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Garlick, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.

Action: Clerk to facilitate the order. Caretaker to action.

8. Health and Safety (CC/25/57)

a) Memorial Inspections and Repairs

The Clerk reported that two new companies have expressed an interest in carrying out repairs to the memorials. Richard King Memorials are going to do a desktop assessment and Set in Stone Memorials is going to do a site visit on 4 March 2026.

b) Tree Work

Councillor Gower proposed that the Committee ratify the decision to appoint Terra Firm to reduce trees on the Western perimeter of the cemetery (trees impacting the roof of the Molan building) at a cost of £495.00 and to reduce the trees on the Southern perimeter at a cost of £2125.00. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor, and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Committee.

8. Date and time of the next meeting (CC/25/58)

Thursday 23 April 2026 at 7.30pm.

10. Questions from the public (CC/25/59)

A member of the public asked whether Ancestry had given a date as to when the data will be published. She explained that she has carried out research based on the online burial records for Heckington cemetery; based on her limited research, she has created entries on Find a Grave publishing details up to 1975.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm.